



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
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Stephen R. Pritchard
SECRETARY

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<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

August 23, 2005

Re: Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Office of Public Private Partnerships (OPPP) FY '06
Matching Funds Initiative

Dear Prospective Partner;

I am pleased to announce the availability of FY '06 funds from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Office of Public Private Partnerships to match non-state funds for EOEA parks, open spaces and facilities. As the public agency which holds these assets in trust, it is our mission to protect these unique resources for future generations. This is an overwhelming responsibility and we cannot do it alone. Through the Office of Public Private Partnerships, we are creating a vision for the protection of this legacy which is built on a commitment to stewardship which includes both government and private sector involvement and investment.

We are building a culture of responsibility which requires new forms of leadership and new strategies for finding the resources to restore what has deteriorated and to maintain what is restored. We have made, and will continue to make, a commitment to building the public trust by protecting the public realm. We will continue to define the Commonwealth's competitive advantage in terms of our environment; to manage our resources to maximize public benefit and to create a Commonwealth of community stewards.

The Commonwealth's parks and open space system has extraordinary assets: 10% of the land mass of the Commonwealth, including more than 2,000 miles of trails, 600,000 acres of land, 28 watersheds, 3 rivers, 270 bridges, 1,450 miles of historic roads and parkways, 12 piers, 1,400 buildings, 2 ski areas, 3 music sheds, swimming pools and skating rinks, 2 golf courses, 42 fresh water beaches, 25 coastal beaches, 60 playgrounds, 30 campgrounds and more.

Our parks and open spaces: our natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources exist to serve the people in the communities which surround them as well as those who visit and vacation here. As we engage people in the planning, management and decision making in and for these assets, we seek also to engage them in new models of stewardship to enhance, restore and maintain them as well. We are building working partnerships which encourage and enable capital restoration in our shared assets.

Building on the success of the OPPP "Fix-it-First Friends" FY '05 Initiative which provided the catalyst for the funding for private capital investment in Department of Conservation and Recreation resources, the FY '06 program will provide \$1.5 million in matching funds to Friends groups, philanthropic individuals, corporations and institutional partners interested in partnering in capital re-investment in the Commonwealth's open space system resources.

Enclosed is the Funding Partner Reply Form for your use. For additional information, please go to www.mass.gov/envir for a listing of the FY '05 OPPP funded partnerships and the announcement of three regional meetings to help you apply for FY '06 matching funds. I encourage you to contact Betsy Shure Gross, Executive Director EOEA OPPP at (617) 626-1117 or betsy.shuregross@state.ma.us for further information.

I look forward to working with you to improve and sustain our open space system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen R. Pritchard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Pritchard" clearly legible.

Stephen R. Pritchard
Secretary